6th August 1955]

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—"May I know whether pepper comes under Commercial Crops Marketing Act and if not, will the Government be pleased to bring it under the provisions of that Act?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"I would like to have notice. I would also look into the suggestion made by the hon. Member."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—"Are the Government aware that peasants generally harvest pepper before they attain full maturity due to economic difficulties and sell it to speculators. The Hon. Minister just now said that he would look into the question of giving help to them through co-operative societies. May I inform the Hon. Minister that co-operative societies give loans to the peasants provided they own lands and are assessed to land revenue? Most of the lands where pepper is grown are waste lands and are not assessed to land revenue. So, the peasants are not able to enjoy the benefits of taking loans through co-operative societies. May I know whether the Government will take special measures to provide cheap credit facilities to pepper growers?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"I shall look into the matter."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—"Since this pepper is a dollar earning commodity, will the Madras Government be pleased to appoint a Special Officer to go into the conditions of pepper growers and report to the Government how pepper cultivation can be carried on on proper lines?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"I shall examine that suggestion."

District Headquarters Hospital, Tiruchirappalli.

* 1979 *Q.*—SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR (on behalf of Sri S. P. Thangavelu) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government proposed to increase the bed-strength of the Maternity ward in the District Headquarters Hospital, Tiruchirappalli, in 1948; and

(*b*) why a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 sanctioned in 1948 for this purpose has not been spent for that purpose?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"(*a*) No, Sir.

"(*b*) No such sanction was accorded by the Government."

Closure of the Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya, Thyagarayanagar.

* 1980 *Q.*—SRI S. RAMALINGAM (on behalf of Sri M. Kalyanasundaram) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya, Thyagarayanagar, has been closed from 7th February 1955; and